



*Paducah*  
KENTUCKY  
CITY ENGINEER





# PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

## CITY ENGINEER



At the heart of America's inland waterways, you will find a beautiful river town that exudes midwestern charm and friendliness, rich cultural opportunities, economic ingenuity, and environmental splendor. Paducah is a destination for those who crave authentic cultural experiences, and who flourish in a family friendly community that offers a range of amenities common to large city living but in a small, unique, richly diverse, and truly beautiful package.

### PADUCAH BY THE NUMBERS

Based up 2020 census data:

Population **27,137**  
*(16th largest city in Kentucky)*

Land area (sq. miles) **20.75**

#### Racial origin:

White **70.5%**

African American **21.9%**

Hispanic **2.9%**

Asian **1.3%**

All other **4.7%**

#### Gender:

Female **53.1%**

Male **46.9%**

Median age **41.7**

Total households **11,432**

Average household size **2.26**

Median household income **\$46,984**





## PADUCAH'S HISTORY

Paducah, which was originally known as Pekin, was settled around 1815. Settlers were attracted to the area due to its location at the confluence of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. The community was inhabited by a mix of Native Americans and Europeans who lived harmoniously trading goods and services.

In 1827, the famed North American explorer William Clark, of Lewis & Clark fame, arrived in Pekin with a title deed to the land he now owned, which was issued by the United States Supreme Court. Clark then offered the land for purchase by the settlers in the area so that they could occupy it with title in their own names. The town was platted out and renamed in honor of the largest nation of Native Americans that ever roamed the region, the Padouca Indians. The community was incorporated in 1830.

Paducah thrived due to its port facilities along the waterways that were used by steamboats. A factory that manufactured red bricks was established and a foundry for making rail and locomotive components was built, ultimately contributing to a river and rail industrial economy.

In 1856, Paducah was chartered as a city. The community continued to capitalize on its geographic location by becoming the site of dry dock facilities for steamboats and towboats and, in turn, headquarters for various barge line companies. Paducah also became an important railway hub for the Illinois Central Railroad (ICRR) due to its proximity to the coal fields in Kentucky and Illinois.

In 1937, the Ohio River at Paducah rose over its 50-foot flood stage. The flood was the worst natural disaster in Paducah's history. As a result of the flood, the United States Army Corps of Engineers built a flood wall to replace the earthen levee that had once been in place.

Paducah has several museums to educate residents and visitors alike about the community's rich heritage. These include the Paducah Railroad Museum, the Inland Waterways Museum, the Tilghman Civil War Museum, the historic Hotel Metropolitan, and the oldest, the William Clark Market House Museum, founded in 1968.



*Hotel Metropolitan, the restored 1908 historic hotel, hosted famous African-American sports figures and entertainers, including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and B.B. King, prior to desegregation. The African-American heritage museum is a "Save America's Treasures" project.*



## THE COMMUNITY

Paducah is a vibrant and inviting river city. Low stress, low costs, and short commutes give Paducah residents more time, and more money, to enjoy the wonderful amenities of the region. Housing costs are impressively reasonable, and families have room to stretch out while children achieve more from the solid foundation provided by the great public school system.

Paducah is indeed a surprising community as it offers its residents and visitors an extraordinary rich blend of cultural amenities, artistic expression, educational choices, and recreational opportunities.

Paducah was named one of the "Most Charming Small Towns in America" by the Travel Channel and Travel Pulse and ranked as one of "America's Top 10 Small Towns for Shopping" by USA Today.

### Quality of Life:

Picturesque appeal, lively attractions and a beautifully historic and culturally rich downtown have made Paducah a favorite of national travel publications. And the city's engagement with the arts—which includes a Downtown Arts District that is a Certified Kentucky Cultural District—has earned Paducah international acclaim.

Like the beautifully crafted creations on display in downtown's National Quilt Museum, the arts are seamlessly woven into everyday life here, in galleries and arts centers like the Carson Center, home to touring Broadway productions and performances by the city's resident symphony orchestra.

At Paducah's landmark Riverfront, panoramic historic murals draw attention and admiration, while the spectacular river views beckon just beyond. Paducah is a pretty city that is perfect for outdoor fun. In a town named "Tree City USA" and winner of the "Boater's Choice Award," recreation enjoys true pride of place.

The Riverfront connects to Paducah's scenic Greenway Trail which allows for biking, walking, and jogging. This trail links residential neighborhoods and a local nature preserve as well as three of the city's parks, including the 135-acre Noble Park. Noble Park is a beautifully functional recreational showplace for a range of sports play. Paducah's other attractive outdoor areas like Noble Park provide the perfect appealing stage for celebrations, arts events and festivals throughout the year.







## THE COMMUNITY

### The Paducah Education Corridor:

Education is clearly one of Paducah's most impressive and prideful assets. The community's pre-K through high school public and parochial school offerings are truly top tier.

Further, a stretch of Highway 62, near Interstate 24, has been appropriately labeled "The Paducah Education Corridor." The area serves the City of Paducah and the entire multi-county region with an impressive range of higher education opportunities that will satisfy nearly every aspiration. Along this corridor is the Paducah campus of Murry State University, the West Kentucky Community and Technical College, and the University of Kentucky School of Engineering Paducah campus.

### Healthcare:

In addition to being a regional hub for business, transportation, and culture, Paducah attracts medical patients from across a four-state area who are drawn by the outstanding medical service providers in the community. Paducah is home to Baptist Health Paducah which is a 376-bed acute and skilled care facility that whose main campus encompasses eight city blocks. The facility has a staff of 1,800 including 260 physicians representing 40 specialties. The hospital provides services to over 200,000 patients every year.

Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital is also located in Paducah. It is a 379-bed facility that has earned the coveted designation by Anthem Blue Cross as a Blue Distinction Center for Maternity Care, just one of the many certifications and awards that patient-centered care has earned the hospital.

Finally, the community is also home to Norton Children's Hospital Outpatient Clinic. This outpatient clinic of a nationally recognized children's hospital provides the latest in specialized pediatric care in the convenient and collaborative setting of the Baptist Prime Center.



# THE COMMUNITY

## Recreation and Outdoor Experiences:

The Tennessee and Ohio rivers, along with nearby Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, the Land Between the Lakes, and the Shawnee National Forest make Paducah and the surrounding area an outdoorsman's dream come true. The lakes, and their more than 3,000 miles of shoreline, are ideal for hobbies such as fishing, boating, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, bird watching, and countless other outdoor adventures.



The community offers numerous parks with play, sports, and fitness facilities for all ages provided by the Paducah Parks and Recreation Department. One of the most popular of those facilities is Bob Noble Park, a 135-acre park complete with a 5-acre lake and recreation offerings ranging from fishing and skateboarding to running, walking, or biking along the Greenway Trail. Noble Park is just one of the many extensive outdoor spaces that helped the City of Paducah qualify for a Tree City USA designation for the 28th consecutive year.

## The Local Economy and Transportation:

The City of Paducah and the surrounding region boasts an economy that is diverse, vibrant, and thriving. Underpinned by transportation, healthcare, tourism, and recreation, the Paducah economy can be characterized as energetic, competitive, and enlightened. With world class medical facilities along with outdoor adventure offerings that rival any region in the country, Paducah's is a place that people want to be. With bountiful transportation alternatives, Paducah is literally one of the best-connected cities in the country making it an ideal location for businesses both large and small.

Paducah's outstanding interstate highway connections puts it within a 24 hour delivery time to 67% of the nation's markets. Central markets such as Nashville, Memphis, and St. Louis are within a 3 hour drive from Paducah. Even larger markets such as Chicago, Atlanta, and Indianapolis are just 6 hours away via interstate highways.

Commercial air travel is a breeze at the Barkley Regional Airport, thanks to daily flights on Contour Airlines to Charlotte, NC and one-stop connections to more than 200 destinations worldwide. Paducah also offers unparalleled rail services. You can cover the continent with Class I speed, thanks to direct service by Canadian National (CN) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and short line access to Chessie System with Seaboard Coast Line (CSX) and Norfolk Southern (NS).

But it all started with the rivers. Paducah offers best-in-class inland barge shipping from an incomparable location: at the confluence of the Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, just miles from the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and the Mississippi River. Momentum is unstoppable at the Paducah Riverport, the nation's northernmost ice-free riverport facility which offers anytime, everywhere access, including exclusive inland access to both New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama.





## LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN PADUCAH

The City of Paducah is a home rule class city and is the county seat of McCracken County. It is governed by a 5-member Board of Commissioners which consists of four Commissioners and the Mayor, all of which are elected at-large on a non-partisan basis. The City operates under the City Manager form of government as is defined by Kentucky state statute. The City Manager is appointed by the Commission and oversees all day-to-day municipal operations including the administration of a nearly \$100 million annual budget.

The municipal workforce consists of 339 authorized positions each of which are assigned to one of eleven operating departments which collectively provide a full complement of traditional municipal services including police, fire, engineering, public works, and parks and recreation.

### The City Engineer Position

The City Engineer serves as the Director of the Department of Engineering and, as such, reports directly to the City Manager. The Engineering Department consists of 11 full-time employees and has an annual operating budget of \$1.9 million. The most recent City Engineer retired from the City after serving in the position for 27 years.

The Engineering Department is responsible for a comprehensive array of municipal engineering services along with the management and operation of the city's floodwall. The following engineering services are provided by the department.

- Design and construction oversight of public infrastructure related capital improvements including roads, bridges, sidewalks, storm water facilities, and various underground utilities.
- Inspection of all privately installed public infrastructure facilities.
- Engineering support for all operating departments of the City.
- Oversight and management of all municipal rights of way.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations.
- Commercial site plan review.
- Professional engineering assistance and guidance to members of the public.
- Floodwall operations.

The City Engineer must be well-versed in all aspects of municipal engineering. He or she must be able to effectively communicate complex engineering principles and practices to other members of the city staff, to elected officials, and to members of the public. The City Engineer must also interpret and enforce, in a fair and consistent manner, a variety of engineering rules, regulations, and generally accepted practices. He or she must also be an effective supervisor and leader. The City Engineer must also possess good project management skills as well as the ability to manage the Department's operating budget.



## THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate for the City Engineer position should possess the following skills and attributes:

1. A strong background in most of the common engineering services provided by the Paducah Engineering Department as outlined above.
2. The ability to communicate effectively with elected officials, developers, contractors, and members of the public.
3. The ability to forge productive and harmonious relationships with a variety of stakeholders including customers of the department, other municipal operating departments, private engineering firms and service providers, elected officials, etc.
4. Possesses a servant leader mentality.
5. Is considered a good team player who can work with, and support, all of the other operating departments of the City.
6. Has strong project management skills and has the demonstrated ability to deliver complicated projects on time and within budget.
7. Is an inspirational leader for the Engineering team and has excellent supervisory skills.
8. Has good budgeting experience and is comfortable creating and managing project budgets as well as the Engineering Department's annual operating budget.



## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants for the position should be able to meet the following qualifications:

- A registered Professional Engineer with the State of Kentucky; or be able to attain such within the first year of employment.
- Hold an undergraduate degree in civil engineering or some other related engineering discipline. A master's degree is desirable but not required.
- Have a minimum of 10 years of engineering work experience, preferably within a municipal engineering environment, including budgeting, project management, and supervisory experience.





## COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The starting annual salary range for the position is \$135,000 to \$160,000 depending upon the selected candidate's experience and qualifications. The City Engineer also receives a \$500 per month vehicle allowance. All exempt employees, which includes department heads, are eligible for both a cost of living pay adjustment and a meritorious salary increase each year. The City of Paducah provides all employees with a robust and generous package of fringe benefits.

## HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should apply online by February 23, 2024, with a resume, cover letter, and contact information for five (5) work related references to [www.GovHRjobs.com](http://www.GovHRjobs.com) to the attention of Mark R. Peterson, Vice President. Please direct all questions about the position, the community, and/or the selection process to Mr. Peterson at (309) 825-5091.

*The City of Paducah is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

